

REMARKS

Claims 66-148 are pending in the application upon entry of this amendment. Claims 1-65 have been canceled and claims 66-148 have been added. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments to the claims and following comments.

I. CLAIM AMENDMENTS - ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's determination that dependent claims 9-11 and 35-37 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicants further acknowledge the Examiner's determination that independent claims 21-23 are allowed.

Applicants have canceled claims 1-65 and have added claims 66-148, which correlate to canceled claims 1-65 and respectively include those features determined by the Examiner to be allowable subject matter. Specifically, all of the newly added independent claims respectively contain features of the allowable claims. Furthermore, some of the previously presented independent claims have been amended to depend from the allowable independent claims. The claims have been reordered and multiple dependencies have been added. Tables indicating the correlation of the new claims to the canceled claims are provided below with the independent claims shown in bold:

New Claim	Canceled Claim
66	1 + 9
67	1 + 10
68	1 + 11
69	2
70	3
71	4
72	5
73	6
74	7
75	8
76	4
77	5

78	6
79	7
80	8
81	4
82	5
83	6
84	7
85	8
86	12
87	13

Specifically, new claims 66-68 incorporate the features of independent claim 1 and one of allowable claims 9-11, respectively. That is, canceled claims 9-11 have been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Furthermore, each of dependent claims 69, 70, 86, and 87 are multiple-dependent from independent claims 66-68.

New Claim	Canceled Claim
88	27 + 35
89	27 + 36
90	27 + 37
91	28
92	29
93	30
94	31
95	32
96	33
97	34
98	30
99	31
100	32
101	33
102	34
103	30
104	31
105	32
106	33
107	34
108	38
109	39

New claims 88-90 incorporate the features of independent claim 27 and one of allowable claims 35-37, respectively. That is, canceled claims 35-37 have been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Furthermore, each of dependent claims 91, 92, 108, and 109 are multiple-dependent from independent claims 88-90.

New Claim	Canceled Claims
110	40 + (9-11)
111	41
112	42
113	43
114	44
115	45
116	46
117	47
118	48

New claim 110 incorporates the features of independent claim 40 and generic features similar to those recited in allowable claims 9-11.

New Claim	Canceled Claims
119	57 + (35-37)
120	58
121	59
122	60
123	61
124	62
125	63
126	64
127	65

Similarly, new claim 119 incorporates the features of independent claim 57 and generic features similar to those recited in allowable claims 35-37.

New Claim	Canceled Claims
128	21
129	22
130	23

131	14
132	15
133	16
134	17
135	18
136	19
137	20
138	24
139	25
140	26
141	49
142	50
143	51
144	52
145	53
146	54
147	55
148	56

New claims 128-130 correlate to allowable claims 21-23. As shown in the table, claims 14-16, 24, 25, 49, and 53 have been amended to be multiple-dependent from new claims 128-130. Minor amendments have been made for purposes of complying with antecedent basis requirements.

Accordingly, the amended claims are all dependent from independent claims containing subject matter that has been deemed by the Examiner to be allowable.

II. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 14-26 and 49-56 are objected to for being drawn towards an information recording medium. The Examiner identifies an optical disc medium provided as an exemplary form of the information recording medium at page 24 of the specification, and interprets this to mean that the information recording medium is *only* an optical disc.

Applicants respectfully submit that the term information recording medium, as

included in claims 14-26 and 49-56, is not limited to only an optical disc medium. The disclosure on page 24 of the specification is merely an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. The specification additionally recites that the information recording medium contains a physical structure such as sector units and sector boundaries (see, e.g., specification, page 42, lines 15-29.) Therefore, for example, the information recording medium may instead be a magnetic disc or other type of statutory information recording medium that is capable of containing such a sector structure.

Therefore, the term information recording medium is not limited to only an optical disc medium and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to claims 14-26 and 49-56.

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC § 102(e)/103(a)

Claims 1-3, 14-15, 27-29, 49-50, and 53-54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ando et al. (US Patent Application Publication No. 2008/0317443). Claims 16-20, 40-42, 45-46, 57-59, and 62-63 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Chadwick (US Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0115219). Claims 24-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ando et al. (US 7,457,523).

Claims 4-8, 30-34, 43-44, 47-48, 51-52, 55-56, 60-61, and 64-65 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ando et al. (US Patent Application Publication No. 2008/0317443) in view of Chadwick (US Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0115219). Claims 12-13 and 38-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ando et al. (US Patent Application Publication No. 2008/0317443) in view of Ando et al. (US 7,457,523).

Claims 1-65 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)/103(a) moot. Furthermore, as discussed above, newly added claims 66-148 correlate to canceled claims 1-65 and respectively include those features

determined by the Examiner to be allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 66-148 are distinguishable over the cited references and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)/103(a) is respectfully requested.

IV. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, all claims are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

 /Mark D. Saralino/
Mark D. Saralino
Reg. No. 34,243

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The Keith Building
1621 Euclid Avenue
Nineteenth Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
(216) 621-1113